

## Statement by Congressman Ron Kind

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to HR 2660, the Fiscal Year 2004 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. The bill shortchanges critical programs at a time of record unemployment, rising numbers of uninsured, and growing state budget deficits.

### **Education**

The bill provides the smallest increase for education in eight years and consistently breaks promises to increase overall education funding. The impact on Wisconsin under HR 2660 is of grave concern to me. I came to Congress to fight for the people back in Wisconsin, I will fight to ensure that all students back home have access to quality education. Unfortunately, the House Leadership and Administration does not back up their education on leaving no child behind with the necessary resources. Rather, they continue to implement new unfunded mandates quickly deteriorating the quality of our Nation's education system. I want to highlight a few of the programs that are ser